Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2020

The 100% Unofficial

Quick Guide

for Commentators, Broadcasters, Media, & Fans

Compiled by Samantha Ross

Introduction

Some things at Junior Eurovision are constant. Talented young performers from different nations coming together to share in the joy of music and take part in a bit of friendly competition...that's been a part of the Contest's ethos since its first running in 2003. However, if the year 2020 has taught us anything, it's to expect the unexpected, and that flexibility and change are key in making things work. Junior Eurovision 2020, while being officially held in Warsaw, Poland, will be brought to us from television studios all over Europe, keeping this year's contestants and crew safely distanced from each other.

In a way, using technology and implementing it across borders during times of global strife brings the lessons of Marcel Bezençon, creator of the Eurovision Song Contest, firmly back into focus. Whether it was the establishment of an event that brought nations together in the years following a devastating war, or finding a way to safely adapt to a world dealing with a pandemic, we take the technological and logistical tools we have at our disposal and use them to create bridges.

On Sunday November 29th we have twelve artists who will give the performance of a lifetime to a global audience. As so many performers have preceded them in years past have said...the show must go on.

-Samantha Ross

Junior Eurovision Results History

Year	Host City & Country	Winning Country	Song	Singer	Runner up
2003	Copenhagen, Denmark	Croatia	Ti si moja prva ljubav	Dino Jelušić	Spain
2004	Lillehammer, Norway	Spain	Antes muerta que sencilla	María Isabel	UK
2005	Hasselt, Belgium	Belarus	My vmeste	Ksenia Sitnik	Spain
2006	Bucharest, Romania	Russia	Vesenniy Jazz	Tolmachevy Sisters	Belarus
2007	Rotterdam, Netherlands	Belarus	S druz'yami	Alexey Zhigalkovich	Armenia
2008	Limassol, Cyprus	Georgia	Bzz	Bzikebi	Ukraine
2009	Kyiv, Ukraine	Netherlands	Clack Clack	Ralf Mackenbach	Armenia/Russia
2010	Minsk, Belarus	Armenia	Mama	Vladimir Arzumanyan	Russia
2011	Yerevan, Armenia	Georgia	Candy Music	CANDY	Netherlands
2012	Amsterdam, Netherlands	Ukraine	Nebo	Anastasiya Petryk	Georgia
2013	Kyiv, Ukraine	Malta	The Start	Gaia Cauchi	Ukraine
2014	Marsa, Malta	Italy	Tu primo grande amore	Vincenzo Cantiello	Bulgaria
2015	Sofia, Bulgaria	Malta	Not My Soul	Destiny Chukunyere	Armenia
2016	Valletta, Malta	Georgia	Mzeo	Mariam Mamadashvili	Armenia
2017	Tbilisi, Georgia	Russia	Krylya	Polina Bogusevich	Georgia
2018	Minsk, Belarus	Poland	Anyone I Want To Be	Roksana Węgiel	France
2019	Gliwice, Poland	Poland	Superhero	Viki Gabor	Kazakhstan
2020	Warsaw, Poland	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

Differences between JESC and ESC:

The contest has been through many changes in its eighteen years, and while there are similarities between the Eurovision Song Contest and Junior Eurovision Song Contest, there are some very distinct differences too:

- Junior Eurovision host nations are selected via a bidding system, rather than automatically awarding hosting duties to the previous year's winner.
- Supporting vocals may be included on the backing track; they do not need to be
 performed live. However, all lead vocals must be performed live. Like at Eurovision,
 instrumental arrangements are all included on the backing track.
- The song must be sung in any of the national languages of the country it is representing, although up to 40% of the lyrics are allowed in another language.
 Artists should have a citizenship or residency of the country they represent.
- The song must last a minimum of 2 minutes 30 seconds, while there is no minimum length at the Eurovision Song Contest. Both contests set a maximum song length of three minutes.
- Junior Eurovision's score is tabulated by a combination of national juries and an online public vote open to viewers from around the globe.

Participation

Active member broadcasters of the European Broadcasting Union are permitted to take part in the contest, though the show has been screened in several non-participating countries, and contest participation may be extended to Associate Members on an invitation-only basis, as in the cases of Kazakhstan.

Out of the thirty-eight countries that have participated at least once, only 2 countries – Belarus & The Netherlands – have competed in every Junior Eurovision so far. As of 2020, Georgia is the most successful nation at the Junior Eurovision Song Contest with three wins and two 2nd place finishes. Russia has won twice with two runner-up placements, Belarus has two victories and one 2nd place, and Malta and Poland each have two wins in the bank as well.

2020 Host City: Warsaw, Poland

While the primary show, including interval acts, voting sequences, and other segments, will be broadcast from Studio 5 at TVP Headquarters in Warsaw, many of this year's contestants have opted to have their performances recorded in studios in their home nations. Malta, Serbia, Ukraine, and home nation Poland all recorded their entries on site in Poland. All broadcasters were provided with plans and technical specs for the Warsaw stage, in order to create a level playing field for all contestants.

2020 Hosts

Rafał Brzozowski

After finding success on Polish musical competition shows like *Szansa na sukces* and *The Voice of Poland*, Rafał has had continued success as a singer. With his song "Sky Over Europe", he was runner-up in Poland's 2017 Eurovision National Final, and served as a member of the Polish Jury for Eurovision 2019. He is the host of the TVP game show *Jaka to melodia?* as well as *The Voice Senior*.

Ida Nowakowska-Herndon

Coming into the public eye as a finalist on the first series of the Polish edition of *So You Think You Can Dance*, Ida Nowakowska has been active on Polish screens and stages since her pre-teen years. While completing her studies at the University of California, Los Angeles, she worked as a dancer for Bruno Mars and Cee Lo Green. She's the host of the Polish version of *Bake Off Junior*, a presenter on TVP's *Question for Breakfast*, a judge on the talent show *Dance Dance Dance*, and starting in 2021, she'll be the host of *The Voice Kids*. Ida also had the honor of hosting last year's Junior Eurovision Song Contest, held in Gliwice, Poland.

Małgorzata "Gosia" Tomaszewska

Born in Łódź and raised in Warsaw, Małgorzata is an accomplished broadcaster, having hosted numerous entertainment and sports programs. She took part in the 4th series of Poland's edition of *Strictly Come Dancing*, and now hosts TVP's morning show *Question for Breakfast* (alongside Ida Nowakowska-Herndon) as well as *The Voice of Poland*.

2020 Songs

Quick Reference & Running Order

#	Country	Singer	Title
1	Germany	Susan	Stronger With You
2	Kazakhstan	Karakat Bashanova	Forever
3	The Netherlands	Unity	Best Friends
4	Serbia	Petar Aničić	Heartbeat
5	Belarus	Arina Pehtereva	Aliens
6	Poland	Ala Tracz	I'll Be Standing
7	Georgia	Sandra Gadelia	You Are Not Alone
8	Malta	Chanel Monseigneur	Chasing Sunsets
9	Russia	Sofia Feskova	My New Day
10	Spain	Soleá	Palante
11	Ukraine	Oleksandr Balabanov	"Vidkryvai (Open Up)"
12	France	Valentina	J'imagine

BELARUS

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2020

Artist (Age)	Arina Pehtereva (12)
Title	Aliens
Language	Russian, English
Composers	Music & Lyrics: Daniil Zabela
Song Description	Written during the start of the Coronavirus crisis, "Aliens" is about how the future is in our hands, despite the adversity and challenges we face. The composition is modern and melancholy, with a rap interlude we rarely see at Junior Eurovision.

Artist Profile	Arina, who had earlier taken part in the National Finals for Belarus in	
	2017 and 2019, was a participant in <i>The Voice Kids</i> in Ukraine.	

Selection Process	For the first time in their history, Belarus opted for an internal selection for their artist and song for Junior Eurovision.
Date Selected	8th October

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2003
Years Competed	2003 – present
No. of JESC (incl 2020)	18
Best Position	1st (2005 & 2007)
Finishing Position 2019	11th place, 92 points
Artist & Song 2019	Liza Misnikova, "Pepelny (Ashen)"
Host Venue	Minsk 2010, 2018

Artist/Song	VAL, "Da Vidna"
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FRANCE

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2020

Artist (Age)	Valentina (11)
Title (French)	J'imagine
Title (English)	I Imagine
Language	French
Composers	Music & Lyrics: Igit, Barbara Pravi
Song Description	Vividly joyful and youthful, "J'imagine" acknowledges the difficulties of the world today (isolation, hopelessness) and implores the listener to imagine a better future with her.
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Artist Profile	Valentina is from the Brittany region in northwestern France, and
	auditioned for The Voice Kids at the age of six. She is currently a
	member of Kids United Nouvelle Génération, a five-part pop vocal group.

Selection Process	As broadcaster France Télévisions has done since their re-entry into Junior Eurovision in 2018, France opted for an internal selection this year for both song and singer.
Date Announced	Artist Reveal: 9th October Song Release: 16th October

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2002
Years Competed	2003, 2018 – present
No. of JESC (incl 2020)	4
Best Position	2nd (2018)
Finishing Position 2019	5th place, 169 points
Artist & Song 2019	Carla, "Bim Bam Toi"
Host Venue	-

Artist/Song	Tom Leeb, "Mon alliée"
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GEORGIA

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2020

Artist (Age)	Sandra Gadelia (10)
Title	You Are Not Alone
Language	Georgian, English
Composers	Music: Giorgi Kukhianidze / Lyrics: Temo Sajaia
Song Description	Starting as a soft ballad, then slowly increasing in power to show off Sandra's vocals, "You Are Not Alone" tells the listener to lean into the crises we face by giving love back to the world.

Artist Profile	Tbilisi-native Sandra took part in the talent show Little Big Shots in Russia at the age of six, and more recently had a role on stage in the touring musical "Pola Negri".

Selection Process	The Georgian broadcaster used the children's talent show <i>Ranina</i> to select their artist. From a lineup of ten contestants, three eventually progressed to a Final round, and a song was then tailored to the winner's voice.
Date Announced	13th November

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2007
Years Competed	2007 – present
No. of JESC (incl 2020)	14
Best Position	1st (2006, 2011 & 2016)
Finishing Position 2019	14th place, 69 points
Artist & Song 2019	Giorgi Rostiashvili, "We Need Love"
Host Venue	Tbilisi 2017

Artist/Song

GERMANY

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2020

Artist (Age)	Susan (13)
Title	Stronger With You
Language	German, English
Composers	Music & Lyrics: Levent Geiger
Song Description	A simple, straightforward ballad that lets Susan's emotions and voice shine, "Stronger With You" is all about how coming together and supporting one another is vital to young people during difficult moments.
Artist Profile	Sugar, who is from Parlin, was a contestant on this year's series of The

Artist Profile	Susan, who is from Berlin, was a contestant on this year's series of <i>The</i>
	Voice Kids, being mentored by Eurovision 2010 champion Lena
	Meyer-Landrut. She has also competed in the New Wave Junior and
	Slavianski Bazaar competitions.

Selection Process	On the National Final program <i>Dein Song für Warschau</i> , the five contestants in the running each performed the two potential songs for Junior Eurovision: "See You Later" and "Stronger With You". The winner was eventually decided by the vote of a five-member professional jury.
Date Selected	2nd September

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2020
Years Competed	2020
No. of JESC (incl 2020)	1
Best Position	n/a
Finishing Position 2019	n/a
Artist & Song 2019	n/a
Host Venue	-

KAZAKHSTAN

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2020

Artist (Age)	Karakat Bashanova (12)
Title	Forever
Language	Kazakh, English
Composers	Music: Khamit Shangaliyev / Lyrics: Ardak Yeleusiz, Abulkhair Adam
Song Description	"Forever" is an emotional ballad about showing gratitude and love to a parent who is no longer with us. Karakat has dedicated her performance of "Forever" to her late father.

Karakat comes from a town just outside of Almaty, and she is now enrolled at a music school. She has taken part in a number of festivals in Kazakhstan.

Selection Process	A twelve-song National Final was held, with the winner decided via a public vote and a jury of music professionals.
Date Announced	26th September

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

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Debut	2018
Years Competed	2018 – present
No. of JESC (incl 2020)	3
Best Position	2nd (2019)
Finishing Position 2019	2nd place, 227 points
Artist & Song 2019	Yerzhan Maksim, "Armanyńnan qalma"
Host Venue	-

Artist/Song

MALTA

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2020

Artist (Age)	Chanel Monseigneur (9)
Title	Chasing Sunsets
Language	English
Composers	Peter Borg, Aleandro Spiteri Monseigneur, Joe Roscoe, Emil Calleja Bayliss
Song Description	"Chasing Sunsets" is not only about following one's dreams and destiny, but it's also about savoring the quiet moments of beauty around us: the colors of a sunset, the silent flight of a bird, the sound of the water.
Artist Profile	Despite being one of this year's youngest competitors, Chanel has experience competing on both local and international stages. She has claimed top prizes in festivals in Latvia, Lithuania, Italy, and her home country.

Selection Process	A twelve-song National Final was held using prerecorded performances. A winner was selected by a public vote, as well as a three-member jury.
Date Announced	1st October

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2003
Years Competed	2003-2010, 2013 – present
No. of JESC (incl 2020)	15
Best Position	1st (2013 & 2015)
Finishing Position 2019	19th place, 29 points
Artist & Song 2019	Eliana Gomez Blanco, "We Are More"
Host Venue	Marsa 2014, Valletta 2016

Artist/Song	Destiny, "All of My Love"

THE NETHERLANDS

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2020

Artist (Ages)	Unity (13-14)
Title	Best Friends
Language	Dutch, English
Composers	Music & Lyrics: Robert Dorn
Song Description	A positive midtempo pop song with beautiful four-part harmonies, "Best Friends" celebrates the support and love that true friendship brings.

Artist Profile	Naomi (13), Maud (14), Jayda (13) and Demi (14) come from separate parts of The Netherlands, but have come together for this specific
	project. Jayda and Demi are both members of the youth choir "Kinderen voor Kinderen", and Maud appeared on <i>The Voice Kids</i> .

Selection Process	Junior Songfestival 2020 was held at the Rotterdam Ahoy, home of Eurovision 2021. Four acts were originally slated to participate, but one singer withdrew due to a COVID diagnosis, and eventual winners Unity performed as a trio instead of a quartet for similar reasons. The winner was decided through a public vote, a professional jury, and a kids' jury.
Date Selected	26th September

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2003
Years Competed	2003 – present
No. of JESC (incl 2020)	18
Best Position	1st (2009)
Finishing Position 2019	4h place, 186 points
Artist & Song 2019	Matheu, "Dans met jou"
Host Venue	Rotterdam 2007, Amsterdam 2012

POLAND

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2020

Artist (Age)	Ala Tracz (10)
Title	I'll Be Standing
Language	Polish, English
Composers	Music & Lyrics: Gromee, Sara Chmiel-Gromala
Song Description	An upbeat and uplifting pop track, "I'll Be Standing" is all about moving forward, despite all odds, to achieve your dreams.

Artist Profile	Alicija "Ala" Tracz comes from a small town in southeastern Poland. She was a finalist on the most recent series of <i>The Voice Kids</i> in her home
	country.

Selection Process	Szansa na sukces was held once again, with three seven-artist semifinals leading to a three-song final. The winner was decided by a three-member professional jury and a public televote.
Date Selected	27th September

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2003
Years Competed	2003-2004, 2016 – present
No. of JESC (incl 2020)	7
Best Position	1st (2018, 2019)
Finishing Position 2019	1st place, 278 points
Artist & Song 2019	Viki Gabor, "Superhero:
Host Venue	Gliwice 2019, Warsaw 2020

Artist/Song

RUSSIA

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2020

Artist (Age)	Sofia Feskova (11)
Title	My New Day
Language	Russian, English
Composers	Music & Lyrics: Sofia Veskova, Anna Petryasheva and Vitaly Tomin
Song Description	A positive and optimistic-sounding ballad that seems like something from a classic Disney film, "My New Day" is all about looking at the future with optimism and joy.

Artist Profile	Sofia comes from Saint Petersburg, and has been singing her whole life. Her most recent success was a runner-up placement at this year's <i>New</i>
	Wave Junior competition.

Selection Process	Eleven acts competed for the ticket to Junior Eurovision, with the winner being decided via an online vote as well as a professional jury.
Date Selected	25th September

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2005
Years Competed	2005 – present
No. of JESC (incl 2020)	16
Best Position	1st (2006, 2017)
Finishing Position 2019	13th place, 72 points
Artist & Song 2019	Tatyana Mezhentseva and Denberel Oorzhak, "A Time for Us"
Host Venue	-

Artist/Song	Little Big, "Uno"
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SERBIA

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2020

Artist (Age)	Petar Aničić (14)
Title	Heartbeat
Language	Serbian, English
Composers	Music: Petar Aničić, Vladimir Graić / Lyrics: Leontina Vukomanović Pat, Petar Aničić, Charlie Mason
Song Description	"Heartbeat" is a sensitive ballad from the point of view of someone in the early stages of falling in love, wondering if the other person feels the same way.

Artist Profile	Belgrade native Petar is the first male singer that Serbia has sent to Junior Eurovision since their debut in 2006. He is enrolled at a local music school, and is an avid rower, as we see in the preview clip for
	"Heartbeat".

Selection Process	Serbia's song and singer were both selected internally.	
Date Announced	Artist Reveal: 25th September Song Release: 9th October	

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2006
Years Competed	2006-2010, 2014 – present
No. of JESC (incl 2020)	12
Best Position	3rd (2007 & 2010)
Finishing Position 2019	10th place, 109 points
Artist & Song 2019	Darija Vračević, "Podigni glas (Raise Your Voice)"
Host Venue	-

Artist/Song	Hurricane, "Hasta la vista"

SPAIN

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2020

Artist (Age)	Soleá (9)	
Title (Spanish)	Palante	
Title (English)	Move On	
Language	Spanish	
Composers	Music: Bruno Valverde / Lyrics Bruno Valverde, Hajar Sbihi, César G. Ross	
Song Description	Blending sunny Latin pop and a touch of Flamenco flair, "Palante" is sure to get listeners moving. The song is all about overcoming adversity and always moving forward.	
Artist Profile	Soleá Fernandez Moreno was born into a family with deep roots in the	
Aitist i Tollie	flamenco scene, and started singing at a young age. She has played a number of concerts around Spain with her family, particularly during	

Selection Process	Spain's song and singer for Junior Eurovision were both internally selected.
Date Announced	Artist Reveal: 9th September Song Release: 7th October

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Christmastime.

Debut	2003
Years Competed	2003-2006, 2019 - present
No. of JESC (incl 2020)	6
Best Position	1st (2004)
Finishing Position 2019	3rd place, 212 points
Artist & Song 2019	Melani García, "Marte"
Host Venue	-

Artist/Song	Blas Cantó, "Universo"
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UKRAINE

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2020

Artist (Age)	Oleksandr Balabanov (14)	
Title	"Vidkryvai (Open Up)"	
Language	Ukrainian, English	
Composers	Music & Lyrics: Mykhailo Klymenko, Oleksandr Balabanov	
Song Description	Eleven entries were published online, rather than a televised final, and the winner was decided through the votes of eight professional jurors and an online vote (which held the weight of a single juror).	
Aution Duofilo	Oleksander was harn in Denetek and new lives in Kriv with his family	

Artist Profile	Oleksander was born in Donetsk, and now lives in Kyiv with his family.
	He had previously taken part in National Finals for Ukraine in 2018 and
	2019, and also participated in musical festivals around the world,
	including a victory at <i>Slavianski Bazaar</i> in 2018.

Selection Process	One of this year's more modern and "adult"-sounding entries, "Vidkryvai" is about what happens when you open up your heart and mind to new experiences and opportunities.
Date Announced	8th September

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2006
Years Competed	2006 – present
No. of JESC (incl 2020)	15
Best Position	1st (2012)
Finishing Position 2019	15th place, 59 points
Artist & Song 2019	Sofia Ivanko, "The Spirit of Music"
Host Venue	Kyiv 2009 & 2013

Artist/Song	Go_A, "Solovey"	
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Junior Eurovision 2020 Facts & Figures

Who's coming to Warsaw?

12 Nations (seven fewer than 2020, with eight withdrawals and one debut):

- Belarus, France, Georgia, Germany, Kazakhstan, Malta, The Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Ukraine.

Who's singing?

- Male Soloists: Serbia, Ukraine
- Female Soloists: Belarus, France, Georgia, Germany, Kazakhstan, Malta, Poland, Russia, Spain
- Duos or Groups: The Netherlands

How old are the performers?

- 9: Malta, Spain
- 10: Georgia, Poland
- 11: France, Russia
- 12: Belarus, Kazakhstan
- 13: Germany, Netherlands (Jayda, Naomi)
- 14: Netherlands (Demi, Maud), Serbia, Ukraine

How were they chosen?

- Internal Selection (4): Belarus, France, Serbia, Spain
- National Final (8): Georgia, Germany, Kazakhstan, Malta, The Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Ukraine

What language will the song be performed in? (Languages may change by the time they reach the JESC stage):

- English: Malta
- Bilingual: Belarus, Georgia, Germany, Kazakhstan, Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Serbia, Ukraine
- Language Other than English: France, Spain

How many songs this year were written or composed (at least partially) by the performer?

- Russia, Serbia, Ukraine

How many had previously performed in a National Final (not counting their 2020 victory)?

- Belarus
 - 2017: "Muzyka-Vselennaya" (with Anastasia Dmitrachkova) 8th place
 - 2019: "Never Again" 5th place
- Ukraine
 - 2018: "My dity zemli! (We Are Children of the Earth)", 2nd place in public vote
 - 2019: "Power in You" unranked finalist

How many of this year's songwriters or composers have previous connections to Eurovision, a Eurovision National Final, or Junior Eurovision?

- France: Igit, who also co-wrote "Bim Bam Toi" for Carla last year, took part in the French National Final in 2018 with the song "Lisboa Jérusalem"
- Georgia:
 - Giga Kukhianidze is the composer behind Georgia's Junior Eurovision entries from 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016.
 - Temo Sajaia took part in the 2011 and 2017 Georgian National Finals with the songs "Jarisk'atsis simphera" and "All the Same", respectively.
- Malta: Songwriter Emil Calleja Bayliss was also part of the team that wrote "Dawra Tond" for Gianluca Cilia in 2017 and "Marchin' On" for Ela Mangion in 2018, as well as numerous entries at Maltese National Finals.
- Poland: "I'll Be Standing" was written by Andrzej "Gromee" Gromala, who represented Poland at Eurovision 2018 with the song "Light Me Up". He also wrote the common song for last year's Junior Eurovision, "Share the Joy".
- Serbia:
 - Vladimir Graić composed "Molitva", Serbia's Eurovision winner for 2007, as well as "Verjamem" for Slovenia's Eva Boto and "Beauty Never Lies" for Serbia's Bojana Stamenov.
 - Charlie Mason has written lyrics for a number of Eurovision entries, including "Rise Like a Phoenix" for Austria's Conchita Wurst.
 - Leontina Vukomanović co-wrote Serbia's JESC entries for 2015, 2016 and 2019, as well as "Lane Moje" for Zeljko Joksimović at Eurovision in 2004.
- Ukraine: Mykhailo Klymenko was one of the co-composers for Darina Krasnovetska's "Say Love" in 2018, as well as the song "99" by Krutь this year's Ukranian National Final.

Credits

Thanks go out to Ewan Spence and Ben Robertson for their assistance in editing, and an incredible amount of credit and appreciation go out to Polish broadcaster TVP and the European Broadcasting Union for adapting this year's Junior Eurovision Song Contest into a viable and forward-thinking event.